

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2006) to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to the Federal carjacking prohibition.

A bill (S. 2007) to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to the Federal carjacking prohibition.

A bill (H.R. 2391) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for all employees.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I object to further consideration at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

THE SENATE'S SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know that Senators are waiting to see what might be the schedule for the remainder of the evening. There are a number of discussions underway now on a number of issues that we would like to get completed before we leave this week-end.

I want to say again tonight, as I did this morning, I really think that the last 2 days have involved a lot of tremendous legislative good work by Members on both sides of the aisle. I do not ever recall having ever seen as many bipartisan conferences in as many places at one time as yesterday.

Yesterday morning, I really didn't think it would be possible to reach an agreement on the conference report on health insurance reform, on safe drinking water, and, of course, we already reached agreement on welfare reform, and before the night was out, even the small business tax relief package and minimum wage. It looks like there will be an agreement also on illegal immigration.

I don't know exactly when all of those will move, but it is my fervent hope that all that work will not be for naught before we leave. We would like to be able to bring up some appropriations conference reports that have been completed. The legislative appropriations conference report is ready. We hope to be able to get to the military construction appropriations conference report, if not tonight, tomorrow.

That probably will require a vote, since we didn't vote on it when it went through earlier, and the District of Columbia appropriations conference report will also probably require a vote.

We would like to do those either tonight or in the morning. And we would like to also get the conference reports that have been agreed to: the health insurance conference report, the safe drinking water conference report, the small business tax relief package with minimum wage, and if there are other conference reports that could become available later on. The Department of Defense authorization conference report is available, too.

So we have several conference reports that we could get done tonight or

tomorrow with just a little cooperation. There are some nominations that we think we can move forward. We have been working on those today. I think we can get some of those moved. So it is my hope that we could get those done.

Also, I would want to move to the HUD-VA appropriations bill. I know the chairman is here, Senator BOND, who has been very patiently waiting his appropriations opportunity. The Senator from Maryland is here ready to go. So if we could have a few unanimous-consent requests and work through those, then we would try to go to the HUD-VA appropriations bill.

I just want to make the Members aware of that. We need to have some additional discussions here in the next few minutes. If we could come to some agreements, then we should be able to notify the Members within 30 minutes what they can expect for the remainder of the evening and whether or not there would be any recorded votes tonight.

I would be prepared to yield the floor and observe the absence of a quorum, Mr. President, where we could work on a couple issues, and we would let the Members know as soon as possible thereafter. I yield the floor, Mr. President, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I do not believe we have been able to come to a satisfactory resolution of some of our concerns that Senators have on both sides of the aisle. We have had a very productive week and a good day. It is already 20 until 9. I know several Senators have had other things on their minds today, so I do not see any sense in pressing the point too far tonight.

I do feel constrained to ask for at least two unanimous-consent requests. We will see what happens. Then, depending on that, we will be able to make some further announcement.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— CONFERENCE REPORT TO AC- COMPANY H.R. 3754

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, with regard to the legislative branch appropriations conference report, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the conference report to accompany H.R. 3754, the legislative branch appropriations bill, that the conference report be considered as having been read and agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LOTT. You did object? All right.

Mr. President, we have been hoping to go to the HUD-VA appropriations bill for over a week now, but because we were assured on various bills that they would take just a short period of time, we have been able to move through eight appropriations bills. I appreciate the success we have had with that. But this is the one that we need to go to and get done so that we do not have to have a Saturday session. It is my intent to complete this bill even if it does involve going to a Saturday session.

It would be nice if we could put that down tonight so that the chairman and the ranking member could get some work done. But we can do that tomorrow, and then we can finish up or we can work on that on Saturday. It is already in my mind that we are going to be here Saturday. So I have been feeling all day that this is really kind of Wednesday, and so tomorrow is only Thursday by my body clock.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 3666

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now turn to the consideration of the HUD-VA appropriations bill, H.R. 3666.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WELLSTONE. Reserving the right to object, and the majority leader has been working in very good faith. I appreciate it.

I just let my colleagues know that this is not my first choice, but month after month after month I have been very patient. The last several weeks I have been very patient. I think the majority leader would be the first person to say I have worked through the process.

We have a very gifted judge, Hennepin County Judge Ann Montgomery. I thought there was a clear agreement that she would be cleared last night. That did not happen. It is not my choice that somebody objected. I have heard no substantive reasons given to that objection, and that is why I object to moving forward.

I am going to fight very hard for Ann Montgomery because she is an immensely talented, gifted judge, with broad support in Minnesota, broad support in the legal community. What has been going on here is just or fair to her. That is why I object.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could respond, first, let me announce that was the last vote tonight. There will be no further votes tonight. We will begin tomorrow morning at 10:30 on Friday morning.

I think all the Members know I have been trying to work through these judges. We have, I think, cleared 16 judges from across the country. Some of them had some problems. We were able to look into those problems, and